

FORGIVING



SEE IT

Mark 11:25 when you are praying, first forgive anyone you are holding a grudge against, so that your Father in heaven will forgive your sins, too.

OBEY IT

I remember it well. I heard someone was talking bad about my dad. I was in high school. It bothered me all day. I Could not get it out of my head, so I let it dictate what I would do. After school, I went up to him and punched him. Very dumb in my part. Today he is my Facebook friend, has forgiven me, and I look back on my decision with regret. He truly forgave my aggression. Jesus has asked us to serve everyone and that includes people we don't particularly get along with. Why is it important to forgive and serve those who have hurt us? The truth is this: what we resent we reflect. Be careful about lack of forgiveness in three areas:

1. What others have done to you intentionally. Forgive and serve.
2. What you have done to yourself. Forgive and serve.
3. What "powers that be" have done to you. Forgive and serve.

Forgiveness does not always mean re-establishment of relationship, especially if there is emotional or physical harm. It does mean loving them and helping them regardless. Who do you need to forgive today? Who can you show you have forgiving by paying good for evil through service?

SHARE IT

1. Practice patience.
2. Refrain from gossiping; speak well of others.
3. Act as if the glass was half full.

My Prayer Today:

Lord, I know forgiveness is not easy, but it's necessary. Help me to serve people I don't particularly like or agree with today. Amen.

My Thoughts _____



PHARISEES

SEE IT

Mark 12:38 Jesus also taught: "Beware of these teachers of religious law! For they like to parade around in flowing robes and receive respectful greetings as they walk in the marketplaces. ³⁹ And how they love the seats of honor in the synagogues and the head table at banquets. ⁴⁰ Yet they shamelessly cheat widows out of their property and then pretend to be pious by making long prayers in public. Because of this, they will be more severely punished."

OBEY IT

It is clear from scripture that God not only cares that we serve others, but he cares why we serve others. The spirit of a Pharisee looks to help others when it's convenient for their own purposes. There are three problems with Pharisees:

1. They love for people to recognize THEM.

In reality all we do should point to something greater than us: Jesus. Pharisees will not waste a second before telling you what they are doing. When you serve, tell others about how good God is, not how much you did.

2. They care more for less important things.

The text says that Pharisees care for opinion of people yet forget to help the needy. Is that the reality in your life? Your congregation? Your family? Do you care more for people that are far from God than your group of friends from church? Usually in churches, the problem is not that we are not friendly, it's that we are friendly only with ourselves. Decide to change that!

3. Their personal life is a mess.

Publicly they front. Privately they steal. I've yet to meet a Pharisee that did not have private struggles that manifested themselves publicly, later. We usually criticize to deflect attention to our own dysfunctions. The best way to deal with out private struggles is to accept and extend grace. Especially to those we deem not worthy to receive it.

SHARE IT

1. Compliment a stranger sincerely.
2. Run an errand for someone.
3. Give something awesome away on craigslist.

My Prayer Today:

Lord, help me care for the important things. To love you and care for your children. Help me leave the accolades for others. Amen

My Thoughts _____
